

Application Serial No.: 09/890,765
Amendment dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 24, 2003, and
Advisory Action dated February 19, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15 are presently active in this case, Claims 7 and 8 having been amended, Claims 9 and 10 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 14 and 15 having been added by way of the present Amendment.

In the Official Action dated September 24, 2003, Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mossi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,979). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants traverse the anticipatory rejection.

Claim 7 advantageously includes a gas generator comprising a cylindrical housing, wherein one or more squibs for firing and burning the gas generating agent are loaded in the housing, and the one or more squibs are covered with firing lids having firing holes each being provided in a direction that does not extend through an axis of the housing whereby flames of the eccentric squibs are controlled to spout around the axis of the housing. The Applicants submit that the Mossi et al. reference does not disclose all of the features recited in Claim 7 of the present application.

The Mossi et al. reference describes an airbag inflator that can supply airbag inflation gas in an adaptive output. The inflator assembly described in the Mossi et al. reference includes a housing (12) defining a first chamber (34). The first chamber (34) contains a first igniter assembly (54) and a second chamber (82). The first igniter assembly (54) includes

Application Serial No.: 09/890,765
Amendment dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 24, 2003, and
Advisory Action dated February 19, 2004

uniformly spaced gas exit orifices (76) and the second chamber (82) includes uniformly spaced gas exit orifices (104).

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Mossi et al. reference does not disclose one or more squibs that are covered with firing lids having firing holes each being provided in a direction that does not extend through an axis of the housing, as recited in Claim 7 of the present application. As is clearly evident from a review of Figures 1-3, at least the second chamber (82) includes a gas exit orifice that is provided in a direction that extends through the axis of the housing (12). Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 7.

Claim 8 advantageously recites a gas generator comprising a short cylindrical housing, wherein an airtight space in the housing is partitioned into a plurality of combustion chambers, a gas generating agent for generating a high-temperature gas when it burns is loaded in each of the combustion chambers, a plurality of squibs for individually firing and burning the gas generating agents in the respective combustion chambers are mounted in the housing, one or more of the respective squibs are disposed eccentrically to an axis of the housing, and firing flames of the respective eccentric squibs are controlled to spout around the axis of the housing. The eccentric squibs are covered with cup-shaped firing lids having a plurality of firing holes for allowing their firing flames to spout into the respective combustion chambers and the respective firing holes are formed to spout the firing flames around the axis of the housing. The Applicants submit that the Mossi et al. reference does not disclose all of the features recited in Claim 8 of the present application.

The Mossi et al. reference describes an airbag inflator that can supply airbag inflation

Application Serial No.: 09/890,765
Amendment dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 24, 2003, and
Advisory Action dated February 19, 2004

gas in an adaptive output. The Mossi et al. reference describes throughout the specification, for example in column 4, lines 43-56, column 6, lines 46-55 and in the enlarged perspective view of FIG. 3 showing the structure of inner cylinder, that during ignition of the igniter material (60) gas flows radially toward the outside, as indicated by arrows in FIG. 3. The flowing direction of gas is not around an axis of a housing, and therefore the Mossi et al. reference does not anticipate Claim 8 of the present application since it does not disclose cup-shaped firing lids having a plurality of firing holes for allowing their firing flames to spout into the respective combustion chambers and the respective firing holes are formed to spout the firing flames around the axis of the housing.

Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 8.

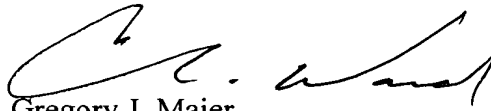
Claims 9, 11, and 14 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 8 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 8. For example, with regard to new Claim 15, the Mossi et al. reference describes an airbag inflator assembly that includes a housing (12) defining a first chamber (34), which contains a first igniter assembly (54) and a second chamber (82). The first igniter assembly (54) and a second chamber (82) are not provided as upper and lower chambers, and the first chamber (34), the first igniter assembly, and the second chamber (82) do not have coextensive outer boundaries.

Application Serial No.: 09/890,765
Amendment dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 24, 2003, and
Advisory Action dated February 19, 2004

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

GJM:CDW:brf

I:\atty\cdw\211932US3PCT\am2.doc